

Voice of Hope

Hope Lutheran Church
Milton, WI
January, 2021-Vol. 1



*Serving All Through Jesus Christ In Thought, Word and Deed
Use whatever gift you've received for the good of one another so that you
can show yourselves to be good stewards of God's grace in all its varieties.
1 Peter 4:10*

January Readings

Sunday, January 3 – *Second Sunday of Christmas*

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:10-18

Sunday, January 10 - *Baptism of Our Lord*

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 17 - *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 24 - *Third Sunday after Epiphany*

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 31 - *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28



Voice of Hope

Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:00 am Facebook Live

Sermons are also available to those without internet access and can be heard (audio only) by calling 608-420-4040.

Visit us on Facebook:

Hope Lutheran Church Milton, Wisconsin

Church Council

President

Randy Lebakken

Worship & Fine Arts

Chris Burkett

Vice President

Suzanne Mickelson

Outreach

Jane Johns

Secretary

Kris Mathesius

Education

Janet Arndt

Treasurer

Karen O'Rourke

Finance

Cindi Benson

Congregational Life

Marilyn Bittner

Evangelism

Stu Bloom

Buildings & Grounds

Kevin Shea

Stewardship

Chuck Hansing

Karl Westlund

Hope Foundation

Wayne Lubke, Carla Clift, Kathy Thompson, Sherry Wille, Ken Holland

For congregational care needs, please contact Kirsten our Office Manager at the church. Please understand that we cannot know of a need, if we're not notified. Thank you.

Church Council Update

Dear Hope Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you to Stu Bloom, Karl Westlund, and Pat and Ron Parsons for leading worship services on December 20, Christmas Eve, and December 27th. We are blessed to have lay people that are willing to step up and help when needed.

The Hope Lutheran Church Council met with the Rev. Steve Kottke, Assistant to the Bishop, on Tuesday December 22nd (via Zoom) to discuss our transition plan. Rev. Kottke reviewed the steps we need to be taking during this transition time, and provided guidance on a possible timeline. Rev. Kottke is working to identify an interim pastor that will serve our congregation until we have a new pastor and he is hopeful we will have an interim pastor by mid February or early March. Starting January 10th we will be using Supply Pastors most Sunday's and will fill in with lay people if needed.

Rev. Kottke recommended we hold off on forming a Call Committee until an interim pastor has started. In the meantime, the Council will begin reviewing the Synod process for calling a pastor and discuss at the next Council meeting.

We ask for prayers for the congregation during the transition period, for Pastor Collette during this time of grieving for the loss of her mother, and for our future pastor who is being called to lead a congregation just like Hope Lutheran.

We will be returning to two worship services on January 10th with an 8 am Facebook Live worship service and a 10 am drive-up worship service (89.3 FM). Thank you to Kevin Shea and his team for building the enclosed drive-up worship platform and to Kris and Steve Mathesius for providing technology support for the Facebook services.

Supply Pastors: January

January 10: Pastor Karl Otto

January 17: Pastor Anne Andert

January 24: Pastor John Eyster

January 31: Pastor Anne Andert

You are encouraged to reach out to myself or any member of the Council if you have any questions.

Together in Christ,

Randy Lebakken
Hope Lutheran Church Council President
608-728-4656

Thank you

A huge heartfelt thank you to all those who attended Jim's visitation and to those who sent their support and love through cards and memorials. Jim always said he had the best students and the best friends. During the Covid shutdown, he really missed the camaraderie of chatting with people in the back of the church after services.

A special thank you to Pastor Colette Powell for reaching out with her support in providing our family with a lovely private funeral service. Our thanks and appreciation also extend to Albrecht's Funeral Home for their efficiency and ongoing support.

A memorial will be donated to the High School of the Milton School District in the name of Jim Polarski. A second memorial, sponsored by The Gathering Place Fishing Club, will be an annual Fish Fry for the Men's Shelter in Janesville.

Hope's quilters would like to thank all participants in the quilt phone in auction. We were able to add \$250 to help with benevolence. We would also like to thank whomever donated the beautiful wildlife panel to the quilters.

Thank you to Marge Ware and Nancy Parr for their many years of dependable service as Monday Morning Counters. Both Marge and Nancy are "retiring" from their positions which they have held for many years. Their attention to detail and wonderful conversation will be missed. Thank you both for all you have done.

Hope Treasurer's Report

November General Mission Income	\$23,549.73
November General Mission Expenses	\$15,104.13
Difference	\$8,445.60
YTD General Mission Income	\$206,967.37
YTD General Mission Expenses	\$188,737.18
Difference	\$18,230.19
Amount owed to ourselves (self loan) 539.98	
Income & expense from Designated Offering does not pay normal operating expenses.	

Quilting Ministry

The volunteer quilters would like to extend a thank you to all those who have donated thread, fabric mattress pads and yarn. It is amazing what you can find packed away in your home that you may not need any longer but someone else around the world would appreciate. Please continue to donate as all your generous gifts are recycled into something useful and beautiful to support Lutheran World Relief ministry.

The Hope quilting volunteers will resume quilt-tying on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. We will meet in Benjamin Hall from 1:00-3:00 to iron and cut fabric, along with tying together 3-layered quilt kits.

If you are unable to attend but would like to sew “square kits” in your home, please contact Pat Parsons, 608-8683997, who would be happy to drop kits off at your home, or you may pick them up at church.

All volunteers are welcome to join in this outreach ministry. Remember, you do not need to know how to sew. Come, have a fun afternoon doing something beneficial for the less fortunate.

Synod News

What’s A Synod?” Part 3

By Deacon Vicki Hanrahan Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life

Last time we shared there are 138 worshipping communities in our synod. Did you know that 80% of our congregations are spread out in rural areas of the 12 counties we inhabit? To stay connected with one another for ministry, we organize ourselves through 12 smaller communities called “conferences.” Each conference is made up of anywhere between 10-15 congregations that gather monthly for collegiality, to worship together, to share stories and struggles and to nurture each other. Each conference is led by a dean who is a rostered leader (on the roster of the ELCA as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament or Minister of Word and Service) that has volunteered to serve the synod in this way. We are grateful!

Of late, during the pandemic, these conference gatherings are taking place via interactive video meetings. Most recently, these groups took on some heavy lifting as we asked the conferences to bring forward names of candidates for our bishop election. In this way, we were able to get input from throughout the synod. We will continue to look to our conferences to bring forward ideas for our shared ministry, for ways we can equip our laity and rostered, and in the future, to lift up candidates for other leadership roles in our synod. This collaboration is one of the ways we are church together at the synodical level. For a list of our conferences, visit our website: <https://c8t5e9v5.rocketcdn.me/wpcontent/uploads/2019/12/2020SCSWConferenceList.pdf>

January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
3 8:00 am Facebook Live Worship	4	5	6
10 8:00 am Facebook Live Worship 10:00 am Drive In Worship	11	12 1:00 Quilting	13
17 8:00 am Facebook Live Worship 10:00 am Drive In Worship	18	19 1:00 Quilting 6:15 pm Church Council	20
24 8:00 am Facebook Live Worship 10:00 am Drive In Worship	25	26 1:00 Quilting	27
31 8:00 am Facebook Live Worship 10:00 am Drive In Worship			

ry 2021

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2
	7	8	9
	14	15	16
	21	22	23
	28	29	30

That brings us to another story for this series and that is how our bishop was better equipped for a call to ministry by engagement in the regional expression of our church through synod leadership at the youth level.

In a recent interview, Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe recounted the seminal moments in her life that led to her answering God's call to serve God's church. Some of those moments revolved around participating in the larger synodical expression of the church. Here's her story:

"I was always very involved in church growing up. My parents would, upon my insistence, cart me across town for everything possible that I could be involved in with my church. We had an amazing youth group and youth pastor at the time. Even though I didn't know most of the kids in the youth group as my church was in a different part of town than we lived in, I got to know them, and those peers and relationships became very important to me. They became my community. Learning about Jesus with them was a big draw. It was a safe place to learn about Jesus.

I was also one of the primary babysitters for the pastor's family while I was in middle school. In 7th grade, I asked his wife once if I could be a pastor as a woman and his wife said, "Yes, they've just started ordaining women pastors, but I would not recommend it; it's very hard and it's probably not a great choice for a career." So I left the parsonage that day and got in my mother's car and said, "Mom, I think I'm going to a pastor." She said, "Honey, you tend to faint at church." Which was true because in Sunday school, it would get hot and I would tend to faint and keel over. So that's how my initial call story started.

During that time, I was elected to the (old) Northern Wisconsin District youth board. I had many friendships develop out of that. The youth pastor, lead pastor and laity all had a role in affirming me for that position and encouraged me to stretch my skills.

It was easy to develop leadership skills because the adults allowed us to do a lot of the planning and execution of events. They trusted us to discern what would be best for the leadership of the district at the time.

Another big moment for me was when Rev. Bob Herder was elected bishop of the East Central Synod. I was asked to participate in his installation service. I was so excited. Bishop Herder had been a pastor to my family. He celebrated my parent's marriage as a new pastor himself. Then when they lost a child to AIDS, he ministered to them. He is the first pastor I remember as a child. It was such an honor to be a young person and be involved in his installation procession. I have never forgotten it. After middle school and after not getting a ringing endorsement for going into ministry, I started thinking about what else I could do and decided I wanted to get a masters in social work and become a social worker. I started the program at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to do that. God had different plans though and I found I could not run away from my call to ministry."

When asked what pastors, deacons and laity might look for in leadership qualities of people in the parish that might make them good candidates for leadership in the church, especially with youth and young adults, Bishop Mortensen-Wiebe shared her wisdom:

“I think I would say don’t look for one particular thing. Don’t be afraid to enter into relationships with all the kids that you encounter. That was true of two people I am thinking about now... two role models in Clem and Grace Stromske who were Sunday school teachers and then followed us all the way as confirmation teachers. They got to know every kid they came across. It didn’t matter if you were a kid that loved church or a kid like my brother that needed

GIFTS

Needs List

Paper Towels

Disinfectant Wipes and Spray

Powdered Coffee Creamer

Napkins

Face Masks

Copy Paper

Powdered Drink Mix

Bottled Water

Non Latex Gloves

Donations can be dropped off or sent through [Amazon](#) to **1025 N. Washington St, Janesville, WI.**

Outreach@GiftsShelter.org to help provide and meal.

We have added Plexiglass to our serving area!

Milton Food Pantry

All food donations are greatly appreciated.

Items can be left in the container outside the church marked “Food Pantry”, dropped off during worship or office hours, or taken directly to the Food Pantry.

Thank you for giving!

Musings from the Music Director

Join Carleen on Facebook for sing-along Saturdays! Each Saturday, I post a fun song for the kids of the congregation. Please share it with the kids in your life, and help them sing along.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Craig Dammen	15	Bruce Kenyon
2	Deb Stephens	16	Seth Suiter
3	Andrew Klinger,	17	Gary Fisher
4	Sue Chwala, Chris Burkett	18	Gary Yanke, Aaron Reed,
5	Kerry Gasser, Tate Olson,		Esmee Rudnitzki
	Braxton Labansky	19	Larissa O'Rourke, Colin
6	Bob Clift, Libby Dammen,		Maier
	Sharon Jensen	20	Lindsey Vegter, Logan
7	Sarah Olson		Servin, Sean Harvatine I
9	Wesley Shefka	21	Michelle Britton, Marie
10	Cade Letson		Benson, Violet Dantuma
11	Janet Albert, Steve Hulburt	23	Janice Stone, Lance
12	Jerry Dahl, John Schultz,		Kenyon
	Jack Weberpal, Jenna	26	John Bittner
	Weberpal, Courtney	27	Pat Weberpal
	Weberpal, Steve Johnson	28	John Klinger
14	Penni Hoppe	29	Caroline Britton
		31	Nancy Parr



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Janet Arndt
Anita & James Day

January 16
January 20



Hope's Little Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep our little food pantry stocked. Please keep the cold temperatures in mind when choosing items. All donations are greatly appreciated.

CHURCH STAFF 608-868-3680

Pastor

Ministry Assistant

Kirsten Woodcock
office@hopemilton.org

Director of Music

Carleen Courtney
music@hopemilton.org

Sextons

John Schultz, Deb Iatonna

Many members' anniversaries are in our computer program already, but some are not. If you would like it shared, please call or email your marriage date to the office to make sure we have it, or if you notice it missing in the correct month. Thank you.

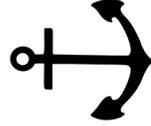
WHAT MATTERS - Stay Connected To Synod Happenings, News, & Events! Grow in your faith and leadership! Stay connected to exciting events and stories of our faith in action in our synod! To sign up for synod news, please email Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at vickih@scsw-elca.org to be added to "What Matters."

***HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION STATEMENT***

*Serving All Through Jesus Christ In
Thought, Word and Deed.*

Adopted by Hope Lutheran Church
July, 2015

*Use whatever gift you've received for the good of one another
so that you can show yourselves to be good stewards of God's
grace in all its varieties. 1 Peter 4:10*

 **Hope Lutheran Church**
335 Dairyland Drive
Milton WI 53563

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January